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branch, fig. 4, exhibits a growth in 1820, at least equal to that of the former year, consisting of an interior tubular part, *a*, fig. 5, and of an outer compact fibrous one, *b*. The pruned branch produced absolutely nothing but a thin ring of tubular wood, *a*, fig. 3; and, if its history were not known, might greatly puzzle a botanist, who would be likely to connect the tubular growth of the last year with the fibrous part of the preceding year's growth.

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### No. III.

#### METHOD OF FREEING FRUIT-TREES FROM MOSS AND INSECTS.

*The Thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. JAMES THOMAS, of Devandon Green, near Chepstow, for a Method of freeing Fruit-trees from Moss and Insects.*

MR. THOMAS states that he has occupied his present cottage-premises for forty years, and has paid particular attention to the fruit-trees growing on them. The soil is poor and sandy, and the trees are very liable to be infested and overgrown with grey lichen, two or three inches long. A few years ago, many of the trees which he had himself planted, had become stunted in their growth, being covered with lichen, and the young shoots having become knobby and carious, and infested with insects. His first attempt to restore the vigour of his trees was by scraping off the moss and lichen; but this, besides being tedious in practice, proved to be very ineffectual; as in two or three years the trees were as much encumbered as before. In 1829, he dusted his trees with quick lime, which he

found, on the whole, to be very advantageous ; and in the next year, 1830, he mixed soot with the lime. The consequence of this application was, that the moss and lichen were entirely removed, the bark assumed a green healthy colour, the insects disappeared, and vigorous new shoots put forth from the old branches.

The mixture is best made by taking five bushels of well-burnt lime, fresh from the kiln, and slaking it with hot water in which salt has been dissolved. When the lime has fallen to a fine dry powder, add, by small quantities at a time, a bushel of soot, stirring it in till the two ingredients are completely incorporated. Advantage is to be taken of the first foggy day, when the trees are damp but not dripping, to dust them over with this composition. One man may treat fifty trees in a day ; and the operation, in Mr. Thomas's opinion, should be repeated twice in a year ; the first time in March, and the second time in October or November. Mr. T. has likewise found, that the turf beneath his trees, which used to be full of moss, has now become a fine sward, quite free from moss ; no doubt in consequence of those particles of the composition which fell to the ground during the dusting of the trees.